UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/50
14 September 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 14-18 September 1992
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Recommendations concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations in the regional meetings for the World Conference on Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Amnesty International
ATD-Quart Monde
Baha'i International Community
France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)
International Catholic Child Bureau
International Council of Voluntary Agencies
International Commission of Jurists
International Federation of ACAT (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture)
International Federation of Human Rights
International Human Rights Law Group
International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples
International Peace Bureau

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International Pen Writers in Prison Committee
International Service for Human Rights
International Union of Lawyers
Minority Rights Group
Service, Peace and Justice in Latin America
Soroptimist International
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches
World Jewish Congress
World Young Women's Christian Association

Association for the Prevention of Torture
International Association of Rights and Humanity
SIKH Human Rights Group (Canada)

JOINT NGO STATEMENT ON NGO PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL MEETINGS PREPARING FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. NGOs have made significant contributions of information and analysis to the United Nations human rights bodies, and have played a constructive role in advising on the formation of the United Nations human rights programme. Furthermore, because of the interdependence, indivisibility and universality of human rights, there needs to be a full contribution from NGOs in order to review fully the efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights. As stated in the joint NGO submission to the Preparatory Committee at its first session, it is important both for the success and integrity of the World Conference that all NGOs with a clear interest and expertise in human rights be provided the widest possible access and participation to the Preparatory Committees, related international, national and regional activities and meetings, and to the Conference itself.

2. The NGOs signing the present statement therefore believe that the regional meetings, as part of the preparatory process of the World Conference, should involve a broad participation by NGOs, including indigenous peoples.

3. We propose to the third Preparatory Committee that the criteria for NGO participation in the regional meetings should be: (a) NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); (b) NGOs in consultative status with relevant specialized international agencies and United Nations organs and bodies; (c) NGOs with observer status or having other forms of cooperation with regional intergovernmental human rights bodies; (d) NGOs which have made submissions to United Nations human rights procedures but which are not in consultative status with ECOSOC; (e) national NGOs that have a publicly recognized track record of active involvement in human rights issues; (f) indigenous peoples, including those participating in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.